



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

State of New Hampshire

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 150 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the State of New Hampshire for a Brownfields Pilot. New Hampshire was one of the first manufacturing centers in the nation, and many of its small towns developed around textile and manufacturing mills. A number of these mill and manufacturing sites were abandoned or underutilized as textile and manufacturing jobs left the state. A total of 467 non-National Priorities List (NPL) sites have been inventoried by the state and found to be contaminated with hazardous substances.

New Hampshire is composed primarily of small towns and cities, and only one—Manchester—has a population over 100,000. Abandoned or underused industrial and commercial properties can have a significant impact on tax revenues and jobs in small municipalities, since their property tax bases are comparatively small. In small towns, the resolution of contamination issues surrounding an abandoned site that formerly housed even a small industrial facility can have a dramatic impact on the local community. Cleanup and redevelopment of these properties usually is hindered because of the uncertain environmental conditions and unclear liabilities associated with the contamination. The state has identified nine brownfields in different towns as potential targets for Pilot assistance.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



State of New Hampshire

Date of Announcement:
May 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot intends to fund site assessment and cleanup planning efforts for New Hampshire's smaller towns in preparation for entry into the state's brownfields or voluntary cleanup programs.

Contacts:

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Department of
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Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 1
(617) 573-9681

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflld/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The state's objective is to create a brownfields cleanup and redevelopment partnership among federal, state, and local governments. The state will send EPA Pilot funds to small municipalities that are actively attempting to address environmental problems and other issues found at idle properties. The Pilot assessments will be targeted toward: small municipalities where brownfields have a significant adverse impact on the local economy; known contaminated sites; and municipalities that are most active in trying to address their brownfields problems. The state's brownfields program will provide liability protection for prospective purchasers upon approval of a cleanup plan, and will extend this protection to future owners upon completion of cleanup. Funding site assessment and cleanup planning efforts will prepare sites for entry into the state's brownfields or voluntary cleanup programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Selecting sites that are either 1) owned by a municipality (e.g., taken for back taxes), or 2) being considered for purchase or municipal acquisition by tax deed or eminent domain;
- Providing targeted assistance to municipalities with the greatest need and potential impact to increase property taxes, create jobs, and concurrently resolve environmental problems;
- Conducting site assessments and preparing cleanup plans to aid in site redevelopment;
- Continuing to work with town redevelopment efforts and maintain the working relationships with all of the towns containing potential sites; and
- Establishing baseline data to track progress at each site. The baseline will consist of the assessed value of the property, the back taxes owed, and the status of the site with respect to environmental indicators.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.